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Comments sought on CBMR expansion plans

Upcoming
meetings
to offer
information

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) is now seeking comments on Crested Butte Mountain Resort's (CBMR) expansion plans.

The projects are included within the resort's 2013 Master Development Plan. The Forest Service has accepted CBMR's proposal and is initiating the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze potential environmental effects of implementing the projects. The publication of the notice of intent in the Federal Register is anticipated today, Nov. 5. The publishing of the notice will initiate a 30-day comment period —meaning the comment period is expected to end Dec. 7.

The GMUG also invites the public to two meetings at which the proposed projects will be discussed. The first meeting will be Nov. 18, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Fred Field Multi-purpose Building, 275 S. Spruce Street in Gunnison. A second meeting is planned for Nov. 19, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at CBMR's Lodge at Mountaineer Square Conference Center, 620 Gothic Road in Mt. Crested Butte.

The “open house-style” meetings will delve into two aspects of the proposed upgrades — those affecting winter use of the mountain and those for summer.

The proposed projects focus on developing the main mountain and include the following primary elements: construction of new intermediate and advanced ski trails and glades in Teo Park and Teo Drainage; construction of two new lifts (Teo Drainage and Teo Park), and realignment of the existing North Face lift; new snowmaking infrastructure on five existing trails; construction of approximately 15 miles of multi-use and mountain biking trails; and a special-use permit boundary adjustment.

Comments can be e-mailed to cbmr@fs.fed.us (please include “Crested Butte EIS Projects” in the subject line).

The next opportunity to comment on this project will occur following the release of the draft EIS.

For additional information concerning the project, contact Aaron Drendel, recreation staff officer with the Gunnison Ranger District. Drendel can be reached by phone at 970.641.0471 or by e-mail at adrendel@fs.fed.us.